

HONORABLE MARSHA J. PECHMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

MICHELLE FOX;

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL FORT, in his individual and
representative capacity; and CITY OF
BATTLEGROUND, a municipal corporation.

Defendants.

No. 3:21-cv-05037-MJP

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or
3 otherwise exchanged:

4 Records and information marked “Confidential” by the producing party that are exempt from
5 disclosure under the Public Records Act, Ch. 42.56 RCW, that may include but are not limited to
6 Protected Health Information (PHI) as defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
7 of 1996 as revised in 2009 (HIPAA) to include any information about the health status, provision of
8 health care, or payment for health care that can be linked to a specific individual; income tax information;
9 social security numbers; month and year of birth; home addresses; personal telephone numbers; driver’s
10 license numbers; private banking and financial records, and passwords; employee personnel information,
11 investigatory records and disciplinary records.

12 3. SCOPE

13 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined
14 above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies,
15 excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
16 presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

17 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the
18 public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

19 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

20 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or
21 produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending,
22 or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of
23 persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and
24 maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to
25 the persons authorized under this agreement.
26

1 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the
 2 court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any confidential
 3 material only to:

4 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of
 5 counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

6 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving
 7 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a
 8 particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so designated;

9 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
 10 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

11 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

12 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
 13 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs
 14 the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals
 15 and copies of any confidential material;

16 (f) during their depositions and at trial, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
 17 reasonably necessary.. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal
 18 confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone
 19 except as permitted under this agreement;

20 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
 21 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

22 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
 23 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,

24 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
 25 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal
 26

or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (*see, e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or

discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

(a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

1 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

2 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
3 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation
4 is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant
5 disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality
6 designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

7 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding
8 confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or
9 for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the
10 movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort
11 to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants
12 to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

13 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention,
14 the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Civil Rule 7 (and
15 in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such motion
16 shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
17 harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party
18 to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court
19 rules on the challenge.
20

21 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
22 LITIGATION

23 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
24 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party must:

25 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
26 subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, upon request of producing party, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial

exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

**LAW, LYMAN, DANIEL,
KAMERRER & BOGDANOVICH, P.S.**

DATED: August 2, 2021

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DATED: August 2, 2021

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DATED: August 2, 2021

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PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED: August 2, 2021



Marsha J. Pechman
United States Senior District Judge

EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____
 [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand
 the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District
 of Washington on [date] in the case of *Michelle Fox v. Michael Fort & City of Battleground*, Case No.
 3:21-cv-05037-MJP. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any
 information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in
 strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western
 District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if
 such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____